

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A thermoplastic polymer composition comprising the following components (A), (B), and (C):

ethylene - vinyl alcohol copolymer (A);

a polymer mixture (B) composed of a block copolymer (I) mainly comprising a vinyl aromatic polymer block and a conjugated diene polymer block which may be hydrogenated, and a rubber softener (II); and

a polyolefin resin (C), wherein

the following three conditions are satisfied:

the ratio of [A]:[B] is in the range of 10:90 to 50:50,

the ratio of [I]:[II] is in the range of 30:70 to 90:10,

the ratio of ([A] + [B]):[C] is in the range of 100:0 to 100:30, when the blending amount of component (A) in the thermoplastic polymer composition is denoted by [A] parts by weight, the blending amount of component (B) is denoted by [B] parts by weight, the blending amount of component (C) is denoted by [C] parts by weight, the blending amount of block copolymer (I) in component (B) is denoted by [I] parts by weight, and the blending amount of rubber softener (II) is denoted by [II] parts by weight,

at least part of the block copolymer (I) is modified at a modification ratio of 0.05 wt.% or higher so as to have a functional group capable of reacting with the ethylene - vinyl alcohol copolymer (A),

the ISO type A hardness of the composition is not less than 30 and not higher than 90, and

the oxygen permeation coefficient is  $20,000 \text{ mL} \cdot 20\mu\text{m}/\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{day} \cdot \text{atm}$  or less, and wherein the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) is in the form of particles that are dispersed in layers in a matrix comprising polymer mixture (B) and polyolefin resin (C).

Claim 2 (Original): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the functional group capable of reacting with the ethylene - vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) is a functional group derived from an  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid and/or a derivative thereof.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the polyolefin resin (C) is present and is a propylene polymer.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the polyolefin resin (C) is present and is polypropylene containing a functional group derived from an  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid and/or a derivative thereof.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A molded product composed of the thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 1.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The molded product according to claim 5, which is a packing for a container.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A multilayer structure comprising a layer composed of the thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 1 and a layer composed of the polyolefin resin (C).

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The multilayer structure according to claim 7, wherein the layer composed of said thermoplastic polymer composition and the layer composed of the polyolefin resin (C) are directly adhesively bonded to each other.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The multilayer structure according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the polyolefin resin (C) is a polypropylene polymer.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A packing for a container composed of the multilayer structure of claim 7.

Claim 11 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to claim 2, wherein the polyolefin resin (C) is present and is a propylene polymer.

Claim 12 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to claim 2, wherein the polyolefin resin (C) is present and is polypropylene containing a functional group derived from an  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid and/or a derivative thereof.

Claim 13 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to Claim 1, wherein the ISO type A hardness is not less than 40 and not higher than 80.

Claim 14 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to Claim 2, wherein the ISO type A hardness is not less than 40 and not higher than 80.

Claim 15 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to Claim 1, wherein the oxygen permeation coefficient is  $15,000 \text{ mL} \cdot 20\mu\text{m}/\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{day} \cdot \text{atm}$  or less.

Claim 16 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to Claim 2, wherein the oxygen permeation coefficient is  $15,000 \text{ mL} \cdot 20\mu\text{m}/\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{day} \cdot \text{atm}$  or less.

Claim 17 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to Claim 1, wherein the particles of ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) have a diameter of  $0.1 \mu\text{m}$  to 200.

Claim 18 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to Claim 2, wherein the particles of ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) have a diameter of  $0.1 \mu\text{m}$  to 200.

Claim 19 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to Claim 17, wherein the particles have ratio  $L/D$  of 5 or higher, wherein  $L$  is a long diameter of the particles and  $D$  is a short diameter of the particles.

Claim 20 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to Claim 18, wherein the particles have ratio  $L/D$  of 5 or higher, wherein  $L$  is a long diameter of the particles and  $D$  is a short diameter of the particles.

Claim 21 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to Claim 19, wherein the particles have ratio  $L/D$  of 10 or higher.

Application No. 10/728,991  
Reply to Office Action of June 29, 2006

Claim 22 (New): The thermoplastic polymer composition according to Claim 20,  
wherein the particles have ratio L/D of 10 or higher.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been shortened.

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter described at page 25, lines 18-23 of the specification.

Claims 3 and 4 have each been amended to require that the polyolefin resin (C) be present, and to depend on Claim 1 only.

New Claims 11-22 have been added. Claims 11 and 12 correspond to above-amended Claims 3 and 4, respectively, but depend on Claim 2. Claims 13 and 14 are supported in the specification at page 24, lines 8-11. Claims 15 and 16 are supported in the specification at page 24, lines 17-20. Claims 17-22 are supported in the specification at page 25, lines 19-26.

No matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-22 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and presumably Claims 11-22 are active. Claims 5-10 stand withdrawn from consideration.